

Planning for the Future: Green Initiatives



Illinois Department of Transportation

Greening Your Organization – 5 Tips

1.) Believe in and educate yourself on sustainability/greening

- American Environmental History has created a challenge for us
- “American Environmental History is a very sad, sad story.”
 - Professor of History, Robert Kuhn McGregor – University of Illinois at Springfield
- Sustainability is about changing a trend of centuries of unsustainable environmental management/thinking



Greening Your Organization – 5 Tips

1.) Continued

The environmental argument has been a tough one because it has been 3 sided

- Traditional
- Conservation
- Preservation

Sustainability is about working to find common ground within the Conservation/Preservation argument



Greening Your Organization – 5 Tips

2.) Find Like-Minded People to Work with - IDOT – Green Initiatives Committee

- ***Steve Massey, Bureau of Business Services***
Title: Acting Sustainable Practices Manager
- ***Dominic Meneghetti, Office of Communications***
Title: Community Relations Manager
- ***Gretchen Tucka, Bureau of Business Services***
Title: Staff Assistant
- ***Craig W. Mitckes, Chief Landscape Architect***
Title: Roadside Maintenance Manager
- **Other Major Supporters of IDOT's Green Initiatives**
- **Secretary of Transportation – Gary Hannig**
- **Ann Schneider – Director of Finance and Administration**
- **Christine Reed – Director of Highways**
- **James McDaniel – Bureau Chief of Business Services**
- **Aaron Weatherholt – Bureau Chief of Operations**



Greening Your Organization – 5 Tips

3.) Education and Marketing

- **Externally** – brochures (printed on recycled paper) – green initiatives, fuel conservation tips and Biofuels station locations, press conferences, presentations to colleges and community groups and Sustainability website

<http://www.dot.il.gov/green/index.html>

- **Market the economical benefits, cost savings, etc.**
- “Economy is God” - Professor Terry Bodenhorn – University of Illinois - Springfield



Greening Your Organization – 5 Tips

3.) – Continued - Market and Education Internally

- Green Initiatives Committee has written numerous articles for the Office of Finance and Administration E-Newsletter to keep employees informed on recent developments

Sustainability Website-

<http://www.dot.il.gov/green/index.html>



Greening Your Organization – 5 Tips

4.) Reach Out – Cross Departmentally

- Interdisciplinary Thinking
- Green Government Coordinating Council
- As a society, we tend to *compartmentalize* things in government, education, etc.
- *Life is not compartmentalized*
- Sustainable Communities Partnership Summit – *importance of cross-departmental collaborations, relationships, etc.*



Greening Your Organization – 5 Tips

5.) Critical & Creative Thinking – developing projects that have value and meaning

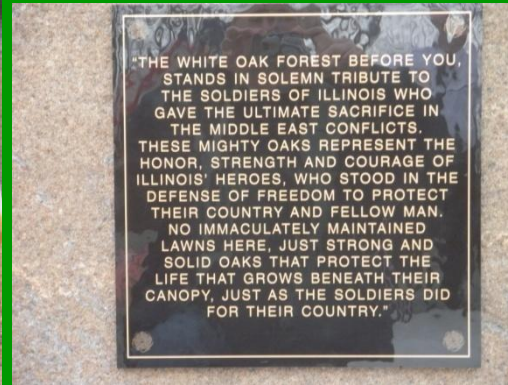
Illini State Park – Marseilles, IL - Fallen Hero Tree Memorial

- Over 250 trees planted for every soldier that has died in Afghanistan and Iraq – Middle Eastern Wars

- IDOT and IDNR partnership – a perfect example of how 2 state agencies can work together to achieve something great



Fallen Hero Tree Memorial



Illinois Department of Transportation

Fallen Hero Tree Memorial

The white oak forest before you stands in solemn tribute to the soldiers of Illinois who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the Middle East Conflicts . These mighty oaks represent the honor, strength and courage of Illinois' heroes, who stood in the defense of freedom to protect their country and fellow man. No immaculately maintained lawns here, just strong and solid oaks that protect the life that grows beneath their canopy, just as soldiers did for their country."

